

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figure 1 and Figure 7a – 7h.

These sheets, which include Figures 1, 2 and 7a – 7h, replace the original sheets including Figures 1, 2 and 7a – 7h.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18, 20-52, 54 and 55 are pending in the captioned application. The Examiner had required a restriction of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §121. Applicants elected without traverse, during a telephone interview, the invention of Group I, namely claims 1-15. Applicants hereby confirm the election and withdraw the non-elected claims 16-18, 20-52 and 54-55.

Claim 1, 3, 7-9 and 11 have been amended while claims 2 and 10 have been cancelled. The withdrawn claims 20, 32 and 47 have also been amended to depend on claim 1.

The drawings are objected to by the Examiner. Specifically, the Examiner regards Figure 1 as not clear since the x-axis was labeled “radial coordinate” while the description on page 23 talks about diameter. In response, Applicants thank the Examiner for spotting this error. Applicants have amended Figure 1, changing “radial coordinate” to “diameter”. Thus the objection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner also regards Figure 7A-H as unclear because the radius ranges from -1 to 1. Applicants submit that the figures are shown as coordinated systems where 0 represents the middle of the bead and +1 and -1 represent the outer edges of the bead. +1 and -1 simply represent one unit in opposing directions. To clarify, Applicants have removed the minus signs before 1 and 0.5. Thus the objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-15 stand objected to for various informalities. In response, Applicants have amended each of the claims. The objections should therefore be withdrawn.

Applicants have also amended claim 1 to include the limitations of both claim 2 and 10. Applicants submit that the amended claim 1 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by either Carlsson et al. (US 6,528,322), or Velander et al. (5,977,345). Applicants submit that claim 1 is free of prior art. The dependent claims 3-9, 11-15 are thus also allowable.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of the claims 1, 3-9, 11-15.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences Corp.

By: /Yonggang Ji/
Yonggang Ji
Reg. No.: 53,073
Agent for Applicants

GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences Corp.
800 Centennial Avenue
P. O. Box 1327
Piscataway, New Jersey 08855-1327

Tel: (732) 980-2875
Fax: (732) 457-8463

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being uploaded to the United States Patent and Trademark Office using the Electronic Filing System on December 16, 2008.

Signature: /Melissa Leck/

Name: Melissa Leck

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Figure 1

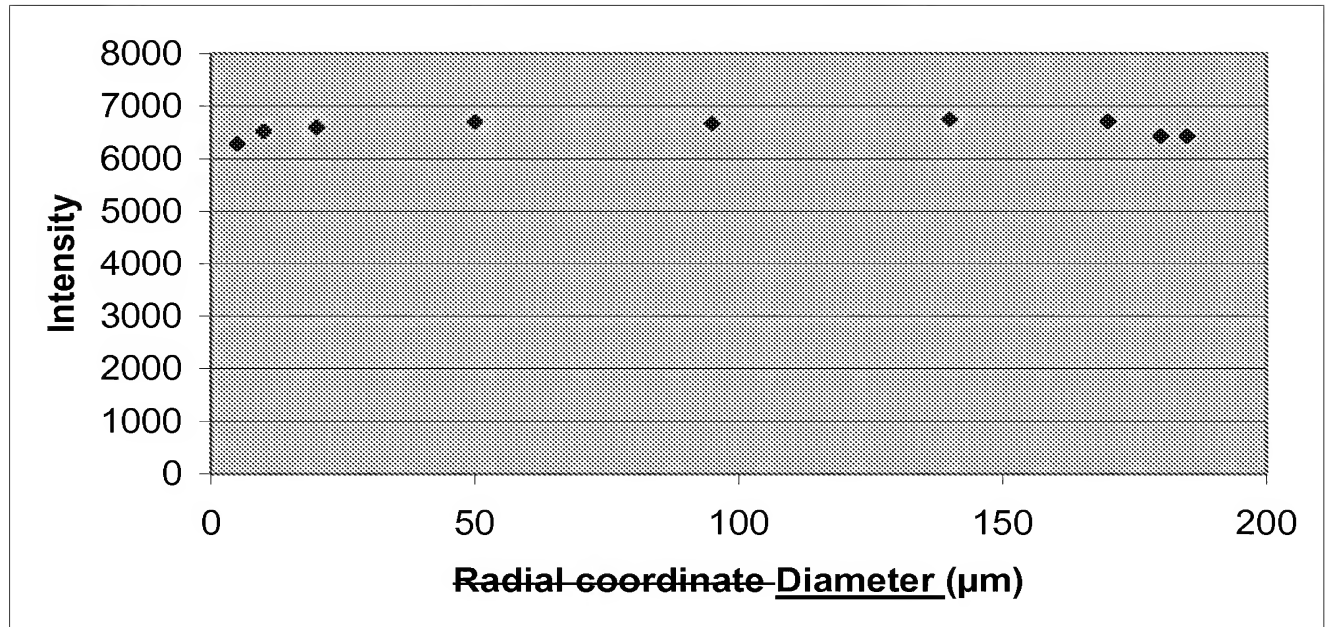
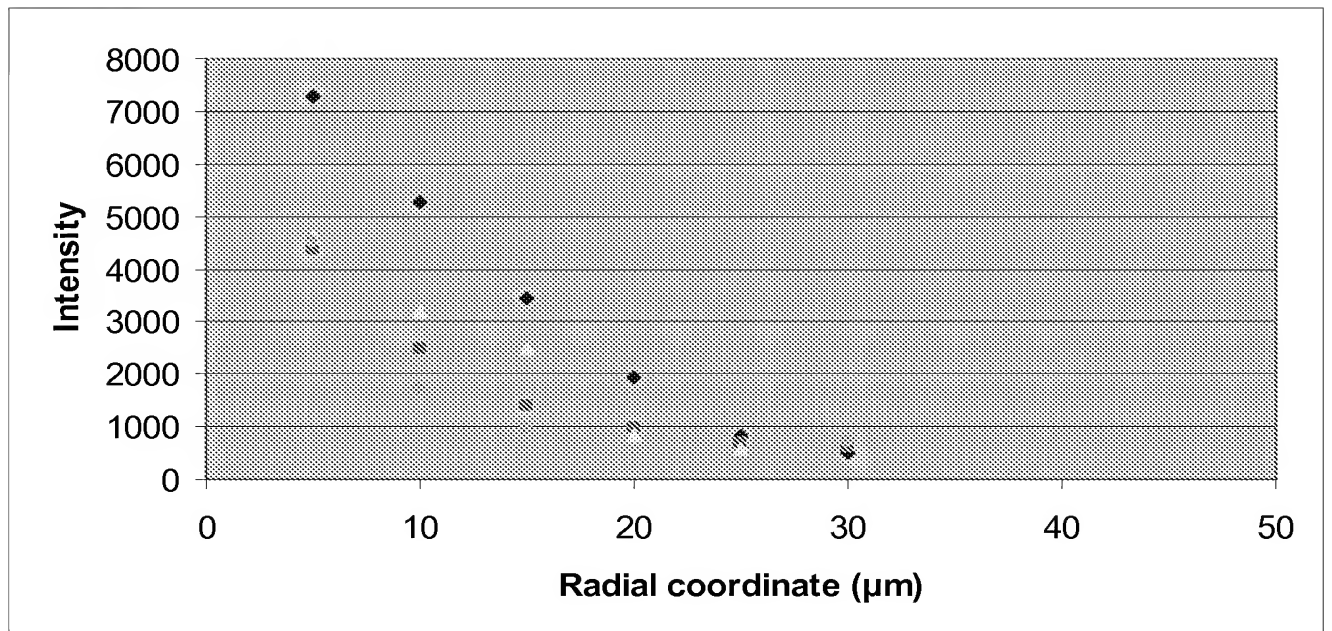


Figure 2



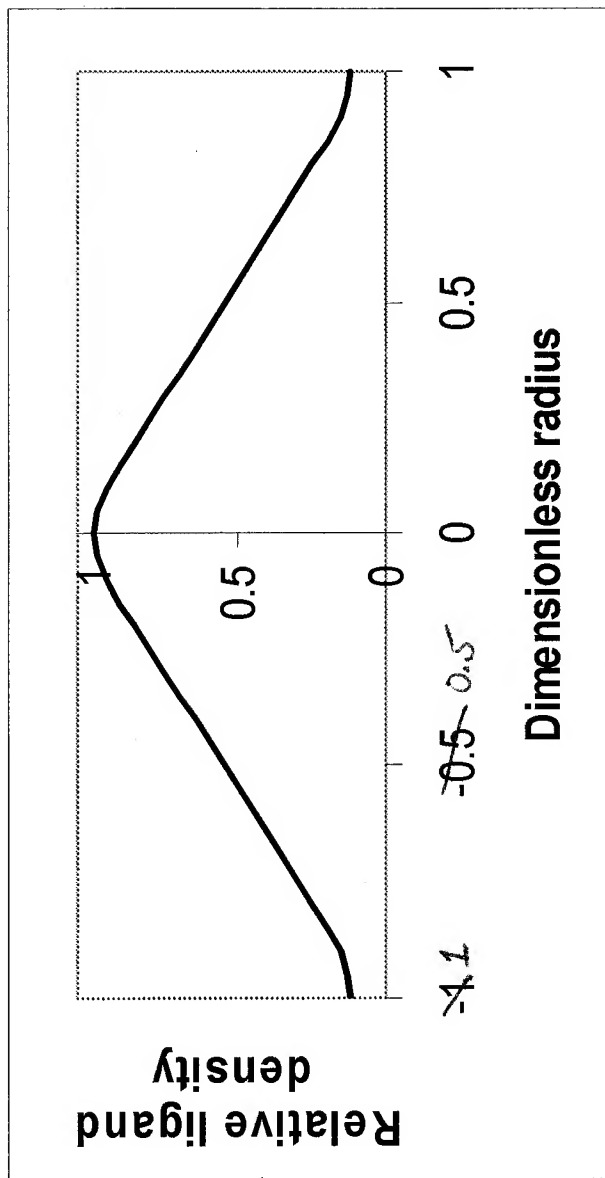


Fig. 7A

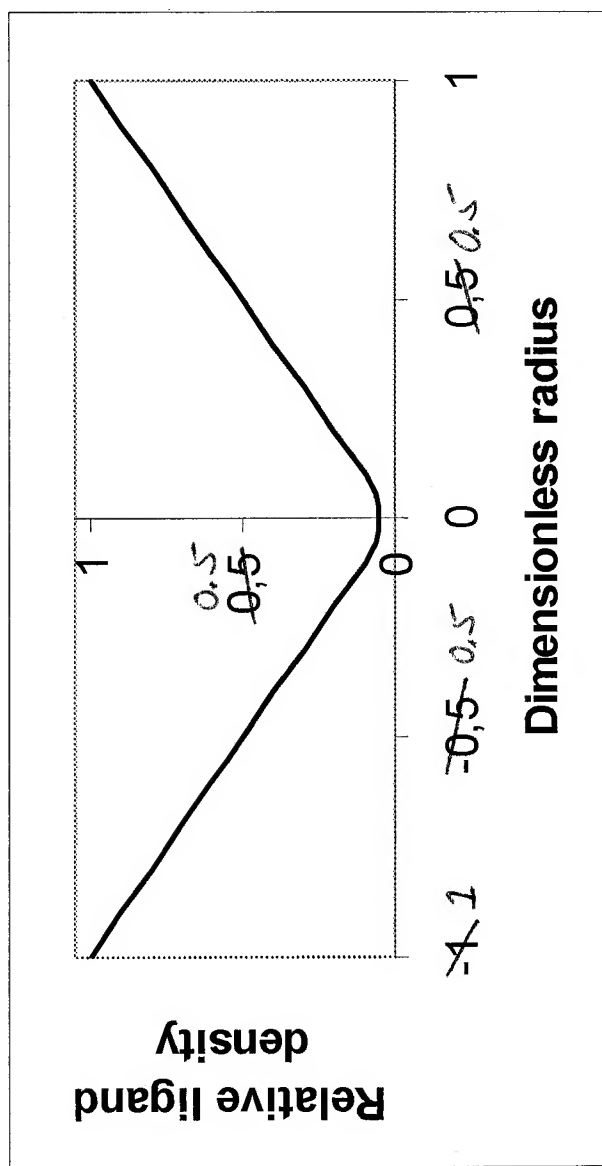


Fig. 7 B

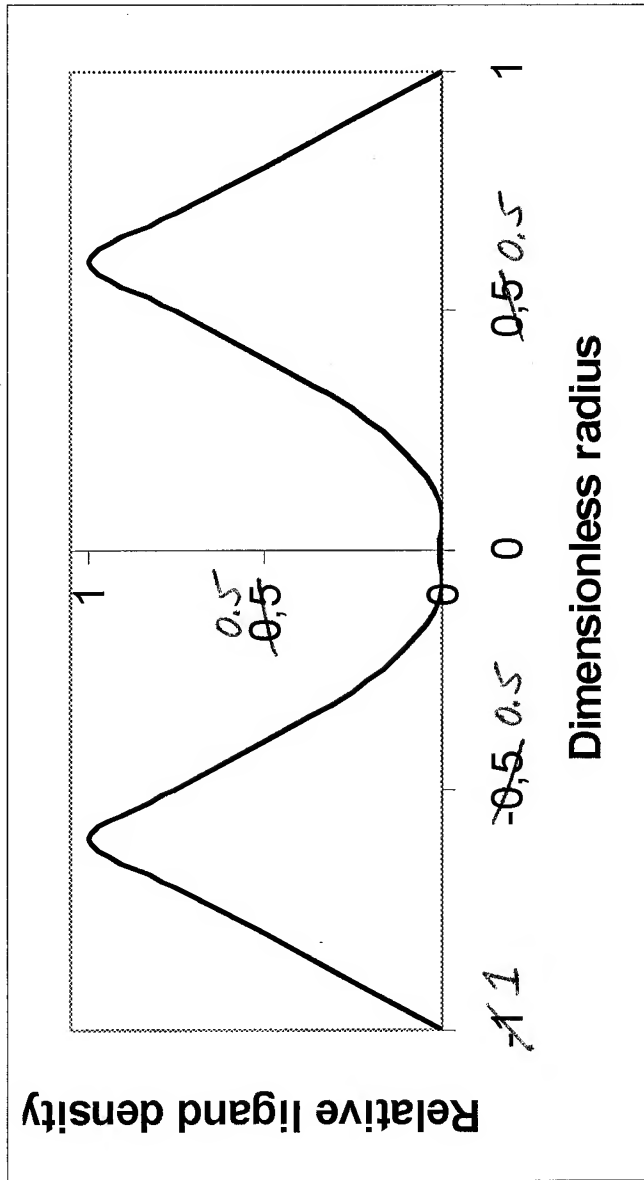


Fig. 7 C

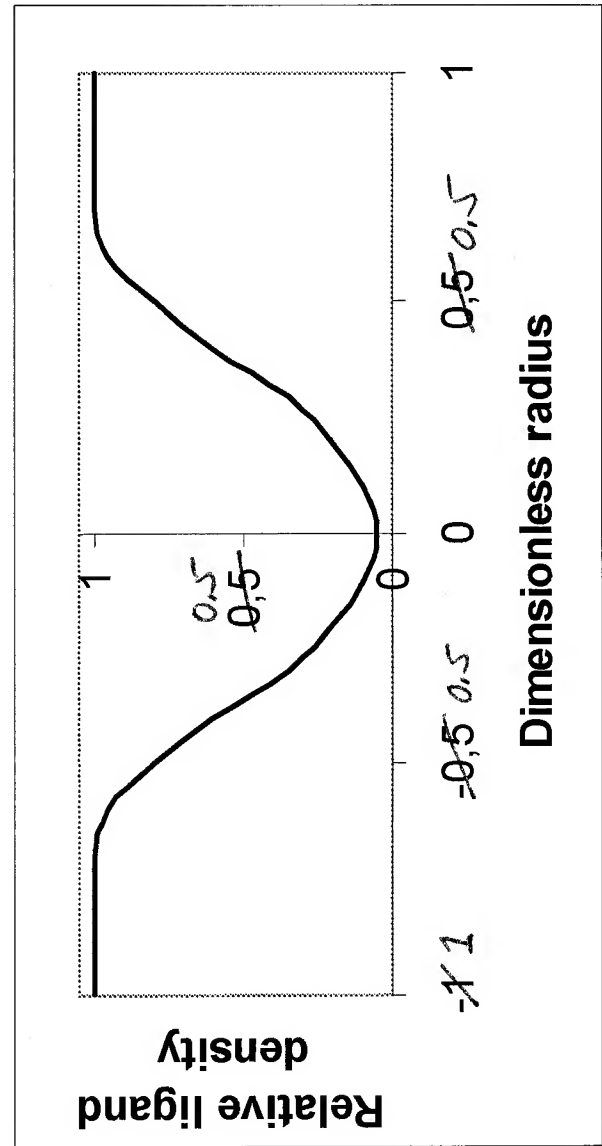


Fig. 7 D

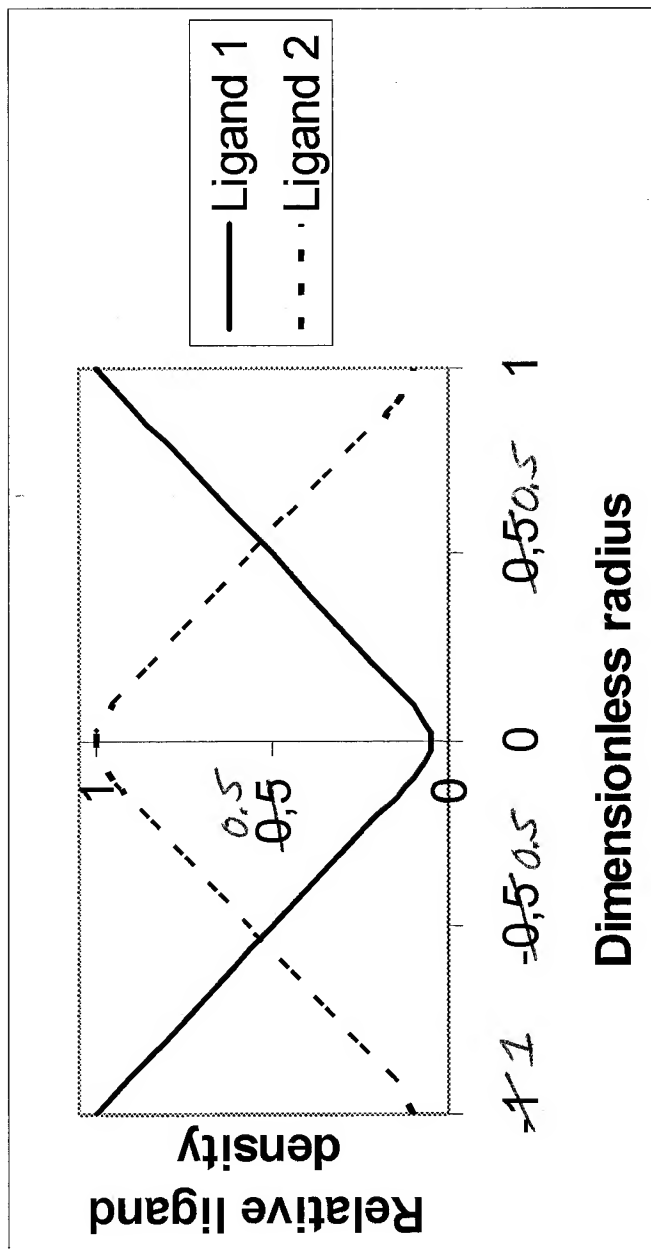


Fig. 7 E

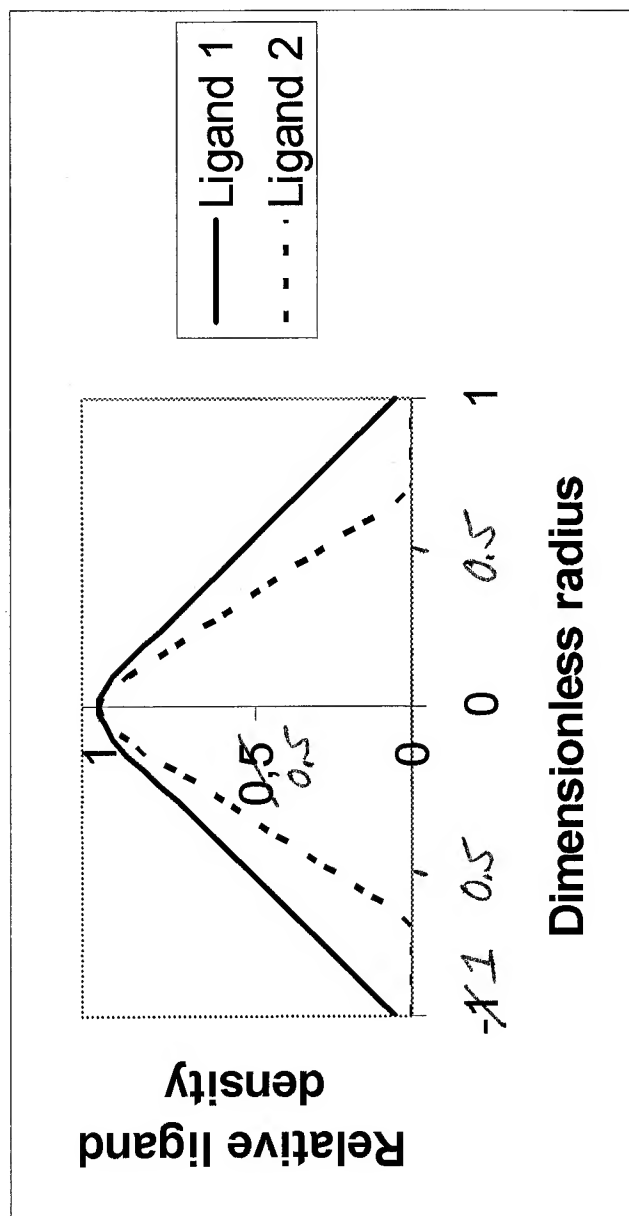


Fig. 7 F

Fig. 7 G

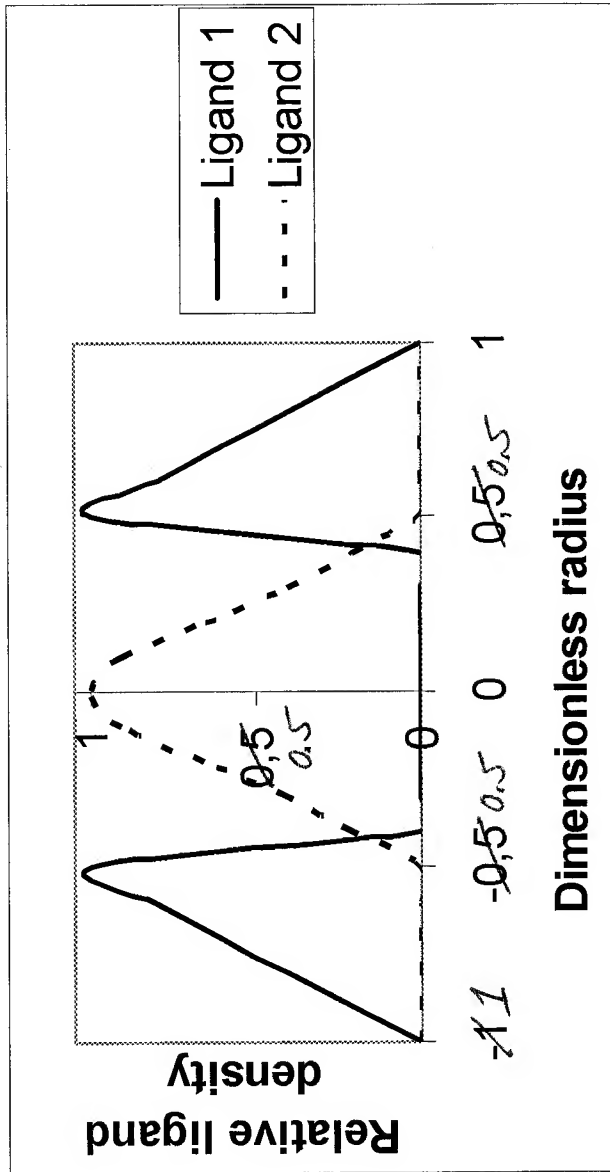


Fig. 7 H

